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The results of a questionnaire survey of coordinating councils of religious organizations in public colleges and universities. The purpose of the survey was to gather information about the existence and the nature of such councils. The questionnaire was mailed to 60 public colleges and universities in April of 1960; 58 responded. Information is given on membership, organizational structure, nature of program, and financing.

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A summary of the Stroup Survey

"Coordinating Councils of Religious Organizations in Public Colleges and Universities"

by
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Brooklyn 10, New York

The manifold and diverse character of religious organizations on the college and university campus comprises one of the perennially perplexing problems of higher education. It is troublesome to national religious bodies which seek to have their interests cared for on local campuses. It raises questions to specific groups of professionals, such as college and university chaplains, who view religion on the campus from their own perspective. It comprises a problem to college and university administrators who in concrete situations seek both equitable and effective programs related to the essential purposes of the institution. It presents difficulties also to specific religious groups on the campus, for both the student and professional leadership, as in-group and out-group relations are considered. It also constitutes a problem to others.

The responses to the manifold and diverse nature of campus religious organizations, by the several levels of persons intimately involved, have been complex historically and at the present time. Two random examples will illustrate the nature of the response. First, in 1948, the National Association of College and University Chaplains was formed. This Association has directed its activities primarily to the needs of chaplains and leaders of worship on college and university campuses. Second, in March, 1960, the Association for the Coordination of University Religious Affairs (NCCJ) was founded. The formation of this Association is described in the Preamble to its Constitution:

> "Recognizing the multi-faith character of present-day university enrollment and the increasing concern displayed by national religious bodies in the ministry to students, many administrators have deemed it essential to assign specific staff members to coordinate religious affairs in the university community.
> Consultations among the individuals first designated for this work in Midwest state universities resulted in the gathering of representatives in Chicago in November, 1959, for the purpose of cultivating professional competence."

Membership in the Association is open to three classes. First, institutional membership is available to those universities in which administrative responsibility for religious coordination is assigned to a member of the university staff. Second, individual membership is available to persons designated by universities for the function of coordination. Third, observer status is available to universities in which there is at present no pattern of coordination, to those in the campus ministry, to denominational executives for religion in higher education, and to other interested persons. Such persons may attend meetings and participate in the Association by invitation, but without vote.

The objectives if the Association for the Coordination of University Religious Affairs are:

1. To bring together for consultation university staff members who are

assigned administrative responsibility for the coordination of religious affairs.
2. To clarify by discussion, conference, research, and publication the role of religion in university life.
3. To advise and encourage student intercollegiate, interreligious conferences and activities.
4. To seek to relate itself to other professional university personnel agencies.
5. To maintain liaison with national education and religious organizations and foundations.
6. To foster the training of personnel for the coordination of university religious affairs and for leadership in community interreligious activities.
7. To serve as a resource to private and governmental agencies in interpreting abroad and at home the multi-faith aspects of American life.
8. To encourage university research and prepare publications on religion in American life.

The Third Annual Conference of the Association for the Coordination of University Religious Affairs was held at the University of Kansas City on November 9-11, 1961.

The study of the coordinating councils of religious organizations in public colleges and universities which is here reported was conducted quite independently of the Association. Its purpose was simply to gather information about the existence and the nature of such councils. A questionnaire was mailed on April 26, 1960, to sixty public colleges and universities. Fifty of the institutions included in the study were state-supported; ten were sponsored by municipalities. By July 8, 1960, forty-two of the colleges and universities had responded. The eighteen remaining institutions were solicited again with a new letter. A second copy of the questionnaire was included. Only two state universities in the Southwest failed to respond.

The questionnaire was divided into four parts: 1) Membership, 2) Organizational Structure, 3) Program, 4) Finances. A number of vital questions were excluded from the questionnaire so that it might be kept reasonably brief. A pretesting of the questionnaire helped to improve its wording.

The following information on membership was secured:

A. Membership

1. Does your institution have a coordination council for student religious organizations?
   Yes 40 No 18

2. Does it include a Roman Catholic religious organization?
   Yes 40 No 1

3. Does it include a Jewish religious organization?
   Yes 36 No 6

4. Does it include an Eastern Orthodox religious organization?
   Yes 12 No 29

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5. Does it directly include Protestant denominational organizations?
Yes 37 No 4

6. Does it include coordinating bodies of Protestant religious organizations?
Yes 18 No 22

7. Does it include semi- and non-religious organizations, such as a Philosophy Club, and Ethics Society, etc.?
Yes 4 No 37

8. Does the institution provide a faculty adviser for the council?
Yes 34 No 8

9. Do the students select their own adviser?
Yes 16 No 23

From the returns it was determined that the coordinating councils of religious organizations in public colleges and universities employ twenty-nine different titles. The most popular are: Student Religious Council, University Religious Council, Inter-Religious Council, Campus Religious Council, Student Religious Association, Religious Council, Council of Religious Clubs, Council of Student Religious Organizations.

In connection with question five, the respondants were asked to name which Protestant denominational organizations are directly included in the coordinating councils. Those most frequently mentioned were: Episcopalian (24), Lutheran (24), Methodist (23), Baptist (22), Presbyterian (21), Christian Science (16), Congregational Christian (10), Disciples of Christ (8), Unitarian (8), Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (8).

The respondants also gave the titles of the coordinating bodies of Protestant religious organizations mentioned in question six. Some of these titles are: Student Christian Fellowship, Student Christian Council, Campus Christian Council, Maine Christian Association, United Christian Foundation, University Christian Council, Student Christian Association, Christian Federation Advisers, and Christian Association for All.

The returns seek to indicate that coordinating councils are widely employed by public colleges and universities to coordinate campus religious organizations, although a sizeable number of colleges and universities have no such council. The councils are composed mainly of Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant organizations. It appears that Protestant denominational organizations commonly are directly included in the councils, although coordinating bodies of Protestant religious organizations also may be represented. Eastern Orthodox religious organizations are not found to the same extent as members of coordinating councils as are Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant religious organizations. The terms of membership, moreover, appear not to favor semi- and non-religious organizations. It may be possible to conclude that the coordinating councils define membership, whether constitutionally or not, in theistic terms.

Although other colleges and universities, in large number, provide a faculty adviser for the council, they often permit students to make their own selection of an adviser. George W. Harrod indicates, as a result of a study he conducted, that "the state supported institutions are inclined to place the supervision of religious

organizations under the office of the dean of students while the private non-denominational and inter-denominational institutions prefer a different type of supervision." (George W. Harrod, "Religious Activities on Campuses of Colleges and Universities," The Personnel and Guidance Journal, Volume 38, Number 7, March 1960, page 555)

The questionnaire also inquired about the organizational structure of the coordinating councils of religious organizations in public colleges and universities. The results were as follows:

B. Organizational Structure

1. Does the council have a statement of common objectives?
Yes 36 No 2

2. Is the council represented on an all-college student government body?
Yes 9 No 32

3. Is the council related to the faculty committee system of the institution?
Yes 12 No 26

4. Does the council elect its own officers?
Yes 36 No 3

5. Is the office of the council located on the campus?
Yes 27 No 13

6. Are there academic requirements for the participation of students in the activities of the council?
Yes 21 No 17

7. Does the council have a constitution or by-laws?
Yes 35 No 5

8. Is the council under the jurisdiction of any department in the institution?
Yes 20 No 20

9. Does the council have a faculty member as adviser?
Yes 32 No 7

10. Do the member groups have faculty advisers from the institution as well as religious advisers?
Yes 21 No 18

11. If so, do both faculty and religious advisers attend council meetings?
Yes 15 No 15

12. Does the council have written procedures and policies in lieu of a constitution or bylaws?
Yes 6 No 24

13. Do the member organizations have headquarters?
Yes 33 No 3

14. If so, does this affect the work of the council?
Yes 19 No 11

It is clear from the above that the coordinating councils do not follow a single pattern of organization. Yet, three major interpretations may be made. First, the coordinating councils are not thoroughly integrated into the organizational life of the colleges and universities. In a majority of instances, the council, for example, is not represented on the all-college student government body. The council also is generally not related to the faculty committee system of the institution. Students who participate in the council, moreover, in a notable number of instances, are not bound by the academic requirements for the participation of students. Although the council sometimes is placed under the jurisdiction of a department, this is not the dominant pattern. On the other hand, there is an indication of institutional interest and obligation. In many places the council has a faculty member as an adviser, sometimes in combination with a religious adviser. In a majority of cases the council is physically located on the campus.

Second, the coordinating councils possess a degree of formality. This is expressed in the fact that a large number have a statement of common objectives and a constitution or bylaws. Such a high degree of formality represents an achievement in cooperation and mutuality.

Third, informality also appears as a factor of the organizational structure of the coordinating councils. This is seen in the fact that both faculty and religious advisers do not overwhelmingly attend council meetings. The fact, moreover, that the council and the member organizations have campus headquarters does not appear significantly to affect the work of the council.

The questionnaire revealed the following regarding the program of the coordinating councils:

C. Program

1. Does the council maintain any activities in common?
   Yes 37 No 2

2. Does the council hold services of common worship?
   Yes 3 No 37

3. Do the advisers of the member organizations, whether voluntary or paid, hold regular meetings of their own in addition to attending the council meetings?
   Yes 28 No 10

4. Does the council have a publication?
   Yes 11 No 30

5. Does the council hold a public, open, annual meeting?
   Yes 12 No 28

6. Does the council contribute one or more programs of campus-wide interest?
   Yes 32 No 5

Questions one and six on the questionnaire brought additional information regarding activities maintained in common and programs of campus-wide interest. Among the more popular activities, in either or both categories, are the following: religion in life week, Thanksgiving Day convocation, orientation week, lecture series, World University Service fund drive, brotherhood week, freshman convocation,

campus conference on religion. A scattered listing of other activities include: program suggestion file, promotion of inter-group visiting, publication of promotional material, campus religious directory, religious arts festival, sponsorship of fireside chats in residence halls, human relations workshop, coordination of guest speaker list, issuance of questionnaires, annual blood drive, exhibits, scholarship for a Negro student, service projects at mental hospitals, marriage clinic, officer installation, infirmary visitation, foreign student dinner.

It appears that many coordinating councils maintain activities in common and programs of campus-wide interest. Worship, however, is not prevalently a council-sponsored activity. Councils, moreover, do not generally have a common publication, nor are they prone to have a public, open, annual meeting.

The following pertains to the finances of the coordinating councils:

D. Finances

1. Does the council have an annual budget?
   Yes 31 No 10

2. Does the institution contribute, directly or indirectly, to that budget?
   Yes 20 No 16

3. Do individuals make contributions?
   Yes 9 No 30

4. Do member organizations contribute?
   Yes 29 No 9

5. Does the council have an endowment?
   Yes 0 No 40

6. Does the council receive contributions of community organizations, whether religious or not?
   Yes 3 No 37

7. Does the council rent its headquarters?
   Yes 0 No 40

8. Does the council own its headquarters?
   Yes 1 No 38

9. Does the institution freely provide its facilities for the council?
   Yes 36 No 4

10. Are fund-raising drives held by the Council?
    Yes 7 No 33

11. Does the council have a paid leader?
    Yes 4 No 35

From the above, a number of interpretations may be drawn. It would appear that the coordinating councils have relatively low expenses. In general they do not rent

their headquarters. Physical facilities are freely provided by the college or university. They do not have a paid leader in most instances. Physical facilities and professional leadership normally would constitute major budgetary items for almost any organization.

On the other hand, the councils do have a need for money. The major reliance of the councils for financing is upon the member organizations and the institution. Contributions from individuals and community organizations do not figure large in the budgets of the councils. None has an endowment. Fund-raising drives are not a common means whereby the councils raisetheir budget. A clear majority, however, do have an annual budget.

In summary, the coordinating councils of religious organizations in public colleges and universities appear to possess diverse features of membership, organizational structure, program, and finances. No uniform pattern seems to exist. Yet, several elements of general occurrence may be noted. First, coordinating councils do exist widely in the United States. Second, the religious organizations and the institutions of higher education have cooperated in many instances to create and sustain coordinating councils. Third, membership in the councils is theistically based. Fourth, the need for supervision by faculty and religious advisers is apparent. Fifth, a notable degree of formalized relationships exists on many campuses. Sixth, the coordinating councils are not generally integrated into the student and faculty procedures of the entire institution. Seventh, a basic rationale for the coordinating councils is the provision for common activities and programs of campus-wide interest. Eighth, although coordinating councils have low budgets, because they do not need to provide physical facilities and professional leadership, they do have regular means for the support of annual budgets.

REPORT FORM FOR THE GROUP SURVEY April 26, 1960

A STUDY OF THE COORDINATING COUNCILS OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS
IN PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Membership

1. Does your institution have a coordinating council for student religious organizations? yes no

2. Does it include a Roman Catholic religious organization? yes no

3. Does it include a Jewish religious organization? yes no

4. Does it include an Eastern Orthodox religious organization? yes no

5. Does it directly include Protestant denominational organizations? yes no

6. If so, which?

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

Others:

7. Does it include coordinating bodies of Protestant religious organizations? yes no

8. If so, which?

_____ _____

_____ _____

9. Does it include semi and non-religious organizations, such as a Philosophy Club, and Ethics Society, etc? yes no

10. If so, which?

_____ _____

_____ _____

11. Does the institution provide a faculty advisor for the council? yes no

12. Do the students select their own advisor? yes no

Organizational Structure

1. What is the name given to the coordinating council?

_____

2. Does the council have a statement of common objectives?
yes no

3. Is the council represented on an all-college student government body?
yes no

4. Is the council related to the faculty committee system of the institution?
yes no

5. Does the council elect its own officers?
yes no

6. Is the office of the council located on campus?
yes no

7. Are there academic requirements for the participation of students in the activities of the council?
yes no

8. Does the council have a constitution or bylaws?
yes no

9. Is the council under the jurisdiction of any department in the institution?
yes no

10. Does the council have a faculty member as its advisor?
yes no

11. Do the member groups have faculty advisors from the institution as well as religious advisors?
yes no

12. If so, do both faculty and religious advisors attend council meetings?
yes no

13. Does the council have written procedures and policies in lieu of a constitution or by-laws?
yes no

14. Do the member organizations have headquarters?
yes no

15. If so, does this affect the work of the council?
yes no

Program

1. Does the council maintain any activities in common?
yes no

2. If so, which?

_____

_____

_____

Others:

3. Does the council hold services of common worship? If so, where?
yes no _____

4. Do the advisors of the member organizations, whether voluntary or paid, hold regular meetings of their own in addition to attending the council meetings?
yes no

5. Does the council have a publication?
yes no

6. Does the council hold a public, open, annual meeting?
yes no

7. Does the council contribute one or more programs of campus-wide interest?
yes no

8. If so, describe it (them).

_____

_____

_____

Finances

1. Does the council have an annual budget?
yes no

2. Does the institution contribute, directly or indirectly, to that budget?
yes no

3. Do individuals make contributions?
yes no

4. Do member organizations contribute?
yes no

5. Does the council have an endowment?
yes no

6. Does the council receive contributions of community organizations, whether religious or not?
yes no

7. Does the council rent its headquarters?
yes no

8. Does the council own its headquarters?
yes no

9. Does the institution freely provide its facilities for the council?
yes no

10. Are fund-raising drives held by the council?
yes no

11. Does the council have a paid leader?
yes no

12. Name of institution reporting: _____

13. Name of institutional reporter: _____

14. Do you wish a copy of the results of this study?
yes no

15. Please return to:
Herbert Strough, Dean of Students
Brooklyn College
Bedford Avenue and Avenue H
Brooklyn 10, New York